



Orthodox creed, yielding only to Judaism.

The spiritual demands of Chernivtsi Roman-Catholics were satisfied by the Society of Jesus – descendants of the famous Jesuit order of the Counter-Reformation period.

The place of building was chosen in spacious Ferdinand Square, which at that time lay in the south of the city. Due to the intercession of the order missionaries headed by father superior F. Eberhard, a monastery complex with a cloister and a stylish Roman-Catholic church was built in 1891-1894. Professor Josef Leizner, director of Chernivtsi trade school, worked out the project of the temple. In 1894 archbishop Severyn Morvsky consecrated the church under the title of Jesus Sacred Heart.

The Roman-Catholic Church looked like the best examples of Gothic temples of Central and Eastern Europe: it had well-proportioned neo-Gothic forms, a refined inferior, multicoloured stained-glass windows, and during services the majestic sound of organ filled the church.

Owing its aspect, unusual for an Orthodox land, the temple of Jesus Sacred Heart became an architectural zest

of the city right away. The guide book of 1899 by Hryhoriy Kupchanok for travelers to the cities of Austro-Hungary mentioned it as an architectural landmark worthy of note.

Between the World War I and World War II, the church continued to function, serving as the main Jesuit centre of the Romanian kingdom.

When the Soviet power was established in Chernivtsi for the second time in 1945, the monks left the city. At first the Jesuit church was transferred to the Orthodox Church, but then State archives of Chernivtsi region occupied the premises. Incidentally, their funds preserved thousands of unique documents from the history of the land, starting from the Middle Ages. Nowadays a decision has been made to return the church to the catholic community.

Meanwhile, this architectural monument is threatened with destruction. It needs urgent major repairs. Figures of saints, icons and prayer books get covered with dust, and the building itself is half-ruined.

Lately divine services have been resumed. They are held at the building of the former cloister (building of art school) weekly; beginning at 19.00.

UDK : 72:711.4 (477.85)

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CHERNIVTSI IS A CITY OF TOLERANCE

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In the foothills of the Ukrainian Carpathians is the regional center of Bukovyna - the city of Chernivtsi. This city is worth the attention of tourists for many reasons. Founded in the picturesque hills of the Prut River, it has great landscapes, monuments of multinational culture, architectural masterpieces, charming atmosphere of ancient streets and squares. It is also famous for its intellectual discussions, its cafes and book shops. For centuries Chernivtsi has been formed as a multinational and multicultural city under the influence of historical events. Tolerance has always been one of the main city features. Different nationalities, religions, and political beliefs have never prevented Chernivtsi citizens from living in harmony and mutual understanding. Each ethnic-group community spoke its own language but this Babel of languages did not create much of a problem since many people were multilingual. Even the street sweepers and policemen were if not fluent but able to communicate in several languages. The motto «Viribus unitis» («With Joint Efforts») has been adorning the flag of Chernivtsi since 1908 not accidentally. One could hear people talking in five languages in the streets: German, Romanian, Polish, Yiddish and Ukrainian. Armenians, Czechs, Hungarians and Russians lived here and made a significant contribution to the economy and culture.

Chernivtsi Philharmonic Organ Hall was developed by the famous Czech scientist, architect and academician Josef Glavka. This building like other works by this master is far from the architectural canons of that time.

It is characterized as eclectic. During its construction (1869-1875) carved stones, ashlar bricks and ceramics were widely used. The use of a dome in the exterior décor is very interesting. Religious subjects were depicted on the stained-glass windows.

In the early 20th century more than 30 % of Chernivtsi population was Jewish and the city was called «Jerusalem on the Prut river». The impressive building short before the theatre at the right is the Jewish cultural house. In the ornament of the banister you can easily recognize many stars of David. Two of the six points were cut off - you may easily notice it, and now almost all of them are in the original shape again.

Saint Cross Ascension Roman Catholic Church was built in Chernivtsi according to the will of the king Josef II. In spite of the monarch's financial support the construction lasted 30 years. It was constantly accompanied by disasters: it was being built by military people of low quality local bricks. The church tower fell off twice, it was also ruined by fire.

The clock was installed on the tower in 1818 for citizens' money. Previously the city had not had a tower clock, and time had been announced by the bell hanging near the guardhouse. After the fire in the church a new clock was purchased for offertories. It was installed in 1907. The side wall of the church has another clock – a sun clock that has been showing only Chernivtsi local time for already 2 centuries.

